

Mid-East Prophecy Update – June 29th, 2008

- This week I would like to talk about something that is happening right here at home in the "United States of America."
- I was watching the evening news on Monday of this last week, and was really taken back by this news story from Katie Couric.

CBS EVENING NEWS – Monday June 23, 2008 - The United States is a religious country with 92 percent of Americans believing in God or a universal spirit. But, as Chip Reid reports, many believe that there is more than one path to salvation.

http://www.cbsnews.com/sections/i_video/main500251.shtml?id=4204240n&channel=/sections/eveningnews/videoplayer3420.shtml

THE PEW FORUM - A major survey by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life finds that most Americans have a non-dogmatic approach to faith. A majority of those who are affiliated with a religion, for instance, do not believe their religion is the only way to salvation. And almost the same number believes that there is more than one true way to interpret the teachings of their religion. This openness to a range of religious viewpoints is in line with the great diversity of religious affiliation, belief and practice that exists in the United States, ...Most Americans agree with the statement that many religions – not just their own – can lead to eternal life. Among those who are affiliated with a religious tradition, seven-in-ten say many religions can lead to eternal life. This view is shared by a majority of adherents in nearly all religious traditions, including more than half of members of evangelical Protestant churches (57%).

<http://religions.pewforum.org/reports>

- QUESTION: This may be how a majority of evangelicals believe but what does the Bible teach?

Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." NIV

John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. NIV

- QUESTION: Is this a sign that we are in the last days?

2 Timothy 3:1-5 3:1 **But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.** 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God- **5 having a form of godliness but denying its power.** Have nothing to do with them. NIV

2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; KJV

- QUESTION: How can Christian's believe this way?

2 Timothy 4:2-5 2 Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage-with great patience and careful instruction. **3 For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.** 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. 5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. NIV

- QUESTION: Does this mean that some professing Christians may not be saved?

Matthew 7:13-23 13 **"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.** 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. 15 "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. 16 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. 21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' 23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!' NIV

- QUESTION: Is the Christian church in America apostate?

Revelation 3:14-22 14 And **unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write;** These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; 15 **I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.** **16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.** 17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: 18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. **20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.** 21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. 22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. KJV